

Frequently Asked Questions

What is The Court of Common Pleas?

Court of Common Pleas is a term referring to a court of certain jurisdiction. It stems from the Court of Common Pleas in the English Legal System which was brought to the United States by the colonial settlers along with the rest of English Common Law.

Where is it located?

The Court of Common Pleas is located in the middle of the Sturgeon City Park.

Is it currently being used?

Currently it is being used however not in the original manner in which it was built for. Over the years there have been two additions added on. One is on the South Side of the building which houses the old city well and is used for storage for the city maintenance dept.

Attached to the east Side is a “lean to” type garage where water & sewer supplies were stored.

Over the years since 1921 when it no longer functioned as a court; what has it been used for?

Verbal accounts are that various organizations held their meetings there such as Teen Town, Boy Scouts, and Study Club. In addition it also served as the polling place for General & Municipal Elections and there are also verbal accounts that at one time it has housed a hatchery and later a mattress factory.

Why now is there a sudden interest in renovations?

There has always been an interest; however a project of this nature takes lots of planning, involvement and funding and over the years there just hasn't been too much success in organizing this type of project.

Well, isn't it too late to try & renovate the building?

Some would probably say yes, but overall we like to think that it isn't too late. As long as the bricks are in good structural condition (meaning they haven't absorbed too much water where the roof has leaked) this building is definitely preservation worthy. The Court building is an essential part of Sturgeon history because it represents the founding members desire to organize a county and be a larger presence in Missouri State Government. In addition the Court building is one of the few remaining public buildings in Sturgeon that reflect Sturgeon's wealth and prosperity during its early development. Historic preservation is costly and typically there is very little funding available to assist small communities with this type of project, so it is not uncommon for small rural treasures to languish until funding can be obtained. Should this have been done sooner? Well...it would have been nice had this project been started years ago, but we can't go turn back time; we must begin with where we are now and continue until the project is completed.

So what all has to be done to renovate the Court of Common Pleas?

To begin with we need to know the structural integrity of the building; what condition the building is in; what damage has already been done?

The additions on the South and East Side need to be removed.

Both the interior and exterior will need major renovation.

Current Building codes for electrical and plumbing will have to be met.

The building will have to comply with the American Disability Act.

Why should the Court of Common Pleas be renovated?

For preservation reasons as this is one of the few original structures still remaining in Sturgeon and if preserved and properly maintained will provide not only a great sense of history but enjoyment for our community, future generation and visitors.

How Can I help?

You can help us in our efforts to renovate the Court of Common Pleas in a number of ways; Participation with the Historical Society Board, monetary donations to help with the costs, fundraising and professional volunteer time that can be used as in-kind match in the enhancement grant.